

continuation-in-part applications of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/854,050, filed May 9, 1997, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/851,843, filed May 6, 1997, Patent Number 6,093,809, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/846,017, filed April 25, 1997, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/844,419, filed April 18, 1997, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/724,643, filed on October 1, 1996, abandoned. This application also claims priority to Patent Convention Treaty Patent Application Serial No.: PCT/US97/17885 and to Patent Convention Treaty Patent Application Serial No.: PCT/US97/17618, both filed in the U.S. Receiving Office on October 1, 1997. Each of the aforementioned applications is explicitly incorporated herein by reference in its entirety and for all purposes. This application also incorporates by reference copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/974,584, filed November 19, 1997, in its entirety and for all purposes.

REMARKS

The changes made in this Preliminary Amendment are for clarification of the priority claims only and to correct the filing date for application 08/844,419. The claim to priority application 08/974,549 was included in the transmittal letter. These amendments add no new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this

Thomas R. Cech et al.
Application No.: 09/721,506
Page 3

PATENT

application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott L. Ausenhus
Reg. No. 42,271

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (303) 571-4000
Fax: (303) 571-4321
SLA:mcl
DE 7042846 v1